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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 9-13 September 1991
Items 5, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda

AGENDA, RULES OF PROCEDURE, DATES, DURATION, VENUE OF
AND PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
PREPARATIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE REGIONAL
LEVEL AND THE NATIONAL LEVEL

STUDIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Recommendations on the World Conference on Human Rights and
its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of
General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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PRELIMINARY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS*

The Human Rights Committee,

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,

1. Decides to request its Chairman to represent it at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights;

2. Adopts the following recommendations relating to items 5, 6 and 7 of the Preparatory Committee's provisional agenda,

(a) A specific item relating to the activities of the human rights treaty bodies should be included in the agenda of the World Conference;

(b) The treaty bodies of the United Nations human rights system, international and regional human rights bodies and non-governmental organizations should be invited to participate in the World Conference;

(c) The list of issues to be explored during the preparatory process should include the following topics:

- (i) Ways and means of encouraging States to ratify human rights instruments;
- (ii) Ways and means of improving the effectiveness of the existing human rights organs and treaty bodies, including the development of strategies for the proper financing of the United Nations human rights structure;
- (iii) Ways and means of strengthening the material and human resources of the Centre for Human Rights;
- (iv) The feasibility and desirability of creating new structures within the United Nations human rights system, such as an Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, and International Court of Human Rights or a Human Rights Institute;
- (v) Ways and means of expanding technical, financial, material and moral support to States in the area of administration of justice and the protection and promotion of human rights;
- (vi) Improving cooperation and coordination between United Nations and regional implementation systems in the field of human rights;

* Adopted by the Committee at its 1091st meeting, held on 26 July 1991.

- (vii) A study should be undertaken examining the indivisibility of all categories of human rights and the relationship between human rights on the one hand and democracy and development on the other;
- (viii) Participants in the preparatory process should be invited to submit their views regarding the existing United Nations human rights arrangements and their recommendations for changes and such submissions should be compiled into a study for consideration at the World Conference;
- (ix) The holding of international workshops, including the participation of major regional human rights institutes, as well as regional workshops, during the preparatory process should be encouraged and the results of such workshops should be presented to the World Conference.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE
ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS*

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,

1. Decides to request Mr. Agha Shahi, its Chairman, to represent it at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights;

2. Recommends that improving the implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments should be a major focus of the preparatory process and that consideration should be given, in that context, to the following:

(a) Assessment of the reporting system and means for its improvement based on CERD's experience;

(b) CERD's experience in respect of the petition (art. 14) and the State complaint (art. 11) procedures of the Convention as means for responding to alleged violations of the prohibition of racial discrimination;

(c) CERD's experience regarding the indivisibility of human rights and the conflict between the prohibition of racial discrimination and other human rights;

(d) Participation of national human rights bodies in the reporting process;

(e) Ways to attain universality of accession to the International Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(f) Coordination of implementation at federal, State/provincial and local levels in complex political systems;

3. Further recommends that studies on the following be prepared for submission as background material to the World Conference:

(a) Progress in combating racial discrimination since 1948, and the contribution of CERD;

(b) The contribution of social research to the implementation of human rights standards.

* Adopted by the Committee at its 928th meeting, held on 14 August 1991.